

gether by detached pairs, although in some places where unusually abundant they gather daily for a sociable feed. — WILLIAM L. DAWSON, *Oberlin, Ohio.*

**A New Bird for the Virginias.**— I have lately received from Mr. Thaddeus Surber, White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, a young male specimen of the Stilt Sandpiper (*Microfalama himantopus*) which was taken on November 2, 1896, near Caldwell, P. O., on the Greenbrier River, six miles from the above mentioned Springs. This species has not hitherto been reported from either Virginia or West Virginia, although a bird from the Patuxent River, Md., has been recorded by Mr. Hugh M. Smith (Auk, Vol. III, p. 139). — WILLIAM C. RIVES, M. D., *New York City.*

**Asarcia spinosa.**— In Vol. XXIV of the British Museum Catalogue of Birds, Limicolæ, p. 86, 1896, Dr. Sharpe names a genus *Asarcia*, type *Parra variabilis* Linn., 1766, as distinguished from *Jacana* proper by the reduction of the facial appendages to a comparatively small frontal leaf, which is trifid, somewhat like a fleur-de-lis; the same cutaneous excrescence in the type of *Jacana* being bifid or heart-shaped, and supplemented by a pair of wattles. Assuming the generic sufficiency of this distinction, I may remark that Dr. Sharpe's use of the specific term *variabilis* in this connection is at variance with A. O. U. canons of nomenclature. As shown by Elliot, Auk, July, 1888, p. 298, and as admitted by Sharpe, *l. c.*, *Parra variabilis* Linn., S. N. 1766, p. 260, was based on Edwards's Nat. Hist. I. 1743, p. and pl. 48, as a mere renaming of *Fulica spinosa* Linn. S. N. 1758, p. 152, which had the identical basis of Edwards's pl. 48. Consequently *variabilis* is untenable by our rules, and the species should continue to stand as *Jacana spinosa*, unless we recognize the new generic name; in which probable contingency *Asarcia spinosa* becomes the onym of the bird. — ELLIOTT COUES, *Washington, D. C.*

**The Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*) in Lewis County, N. Y.**— In the Boonville (N. Y.) 'Herald' of May 27, 1896, appeared an item to the effect that Mr. Henry Felshaw had recently seen "a large flock of Wild Pigeons, perhaps 300 in number, flying westward." On writing to Mr. Felshaw he replied that there was no possibility of his having been mistaken, as he had shot, trapped and netted thousands of these birds, in former years, and the flock in question was seen when not more than fifteen rods distant. The flock, as said, numbered about 300, and was seen at about 5.30 A. M. on May 22, the locality being Constableville, Lewis County, N. Y. He further states, "I mounted, last spring (in April, I think) a cock Pigeon that was shot somewhere near North Western." — W. S. JOHNSON, *Boonville, N. Y.*

**Melopelia leucoptera in Osceola County, Florida.**— The National Museum has recently received a wing and foot of this species from Prof. W.